A relation to his nephew (in a letter dated September 7, 1909) of how a Cornish Irish foreman "planed to have me murdered in his owne sloon by a man the name of Eagen," occasions a discussion of good and bad Irishmen in Butte City. His favourites were "Good Kerry men and also Good Irish Men from the County Cork." He seems to have a special antipathy for "Cornish Traitors" and other imposters, such as a newspaper editor named "Paddy" who "was no Irish man nor he never was."

This concern with such "imposters" is related to his concern with Irish or celtic culture, as a preoccupation with purity. He concludes his letter to his nephew by calling on

> all true Irish men to learn ... the language of yeor four fathers and dont be some mengreals [.] [A] mongreal is onely good for fiv hundered years at the most [.] They run out after that when the True Blood never runs out.

The connection between this preoccupation with purity and his "Messiahship" becomes more explicit when, after running through a list of families with Irish-sounding surnames but not of "true Irish" stock, he asserts that

> Poor Paddy could never make a messiah for he's a mixed bread [.] The Murphys are Jewes who went in to the Country kerry at the time of William and threw their lotts with the [K]erry men.

His desire for purity as a qualification for the celtic chosen race, and ultimately an Irish Messiah, seem to be related to his fear of poison, his suspicion of his wife (a potential source of "mixed-breeding") and his hatred of priests (who by then were seen to play an ambiguous role in Irish politics).

Mr. O'Reilly's identification of "Cornish Traitors" with Tamany Hall ("I pronounce Tamady hall to be composed of a lot of Irish cornish traitors whome I now pronounce now as out Laws") suggests that he combined a superficial if garbled knowledge of history and current events with more paradigmatic and passionate beliefs to produce a personal mythology. Sometimes he writes almost as a crude 17th-century balladeer of "Poems on Affairs of State," as in the following: